between glutamine (Gln) 157 and lysine (Lys)158, between glutamic acid (Glu)172 and aspartic acid (Asp)173 and both of the aforementioned locations.

12. (Amended) The affinity fluorescent protein expression cassette of Claim 11, wherein the recombinant peptide comprises the hexapeptide LEPRAS (SEQ ID NO: 1).

13. (Amended) The affinity fluorescent protein of Claim 11 wherein the mutated green fluorescent protein (GFP) comprises a substitution of serine at position 147 of GFP to proline (Ser147Pro).

14. (Amended) An isolated affinity fluorescent protein expression vector comprising a modified green fluorescent protein (GFP) nucleic acid sequence which is mutated and operatively linked to expression control sequences, wherein the modified GFP sequence comprises a heterologous amino acid sequence introduced at a position of the GFP molecule selected from the group consisting of: between glutamine (Gln) 157 and lysine (Lys)158, between glutamic acid (Glu)172 and aspartic acid (Asp)173 and both of the aforementioned locations.

15. (Amended) The affinity fluorescent protein expression vector of Claim 14 wherein the mutated green fluorescent protein (GFP) comprises a substitution of serine at position 147 of GFP to proline (Ser147Pro).

Please add new Claims 27-29.

27. (New) An isolated affinity fluorescent protein expression cassette comprising a modified green fluorescent protein (GFP) nucleic acid sequence which is mutated and operatively linked to expression control sequences, wherein the modified GFP sequence comprises a hexapeptide LEPRAS (SEQ ID NO: 1).